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Memorandum

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 Sullivan _____
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 Tele. Room _____
 Holmes _____
 Gandy _____

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: 9/27/63

FROM : Mr. D. J. Brennan, Jr.

SUBJECT: ANTI-CASTRO ACTIVITIES
 INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

SECRET

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During the past few weeks the Bureau has received information from time to time concerning anti-Castro activities based in Nicaragua. This information has suggested that Cuban exiles probably were in the process of organizing another invasion force. We do know that Manuel Artime, a prominent Cuban exile, has been spending considerable time in Nicaragua allegedly organizing exiles and we also know that he has been getting support from CIA. On 9/25/63, the Liaison Agent met with Henry Hecksher, CIA, for the purpose of determining where CIA fits into the picture in Nicaragua. Such information naturally is useful to us as we plan and supervise our investigations of Cubans in this country. Hecksher furnished the following:

He made reference to information developed by the Bureau concerning a high-level meeting of Cuban exiles which allegedly was held in New York City in July, 1963. Our information indicated that the meeting involved American and Cuban businessmen and that one of those in attendance was a Mr. Campbell identified as the Commercial Attache of the U. S. Embassy in Australia. The Bureau source had suggested that Campbell might be identical with William Caldwell, a CIA intelligence officer who had been assigned in Cuba at one time. Hecksher stated that his agency does not know anything about this meeting and that Caldwell has been stationed in Australia for the past two years. Caldwell was in the U. S. for a few days around the middle of August but he has not been involved in any Cuban matters since his assignment in Australia.

Hecksher then referred to information received from the Bureau concerning the activities of Luis Somoza, former President of Nicaragua. He stated that CIA is not involved in any intelligence operation with Somoza. He further elaborated by emphasizing that CIA is not organizing any Cuban invasion force in any countries. With regard to Somoza, he commented that CIA has received numerous reports and rumors regarding Somoza's activities and his alleged connection with the U.S. Government. He advised that for several

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Wannall
- 1 - Mr. Nasca
- 1 - Liaison
- 1 - Mr. Papich

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months Somoza has been championing a plan, allegedly designed by him, which has as its objective to overthrow the Castro Government. The plan essentially consists of training Cuban exiles in Nicaragua and would also involve collaboration from other Central American countries including Nicaragua. The Kennedy Administration has looked at this plan and has disapproved it. Nevertheless, Somoza has not hesitated to use the name of the U. S. in his numerous statements which he freely passes out to many sources. [Hecksher] emphasized [S] that statements made by Somoza regarding the purchase of arms and ammunition with the support of the U. S. Government are false. Somoza has told people that President Kennedy approved the so called "Somoza Plan" at the time of the conference of Central American leaders in San Jose, Costa Rica in 1962. Somoza has stated that at this conference the President gave Somoza his full blessing. According to [Hecksher] this is absolutely false. [Hecksher] also understands [S] that Somoza met with Secretary of State Rusk at the recent American Legion convention and discussed his plan. Somoza allegedly left this meeting in a rage because Rusk "chopped up" the entire Somoza Plan. \$

With regard to CIA operations, [Hecksher] advised that his [S] agency follows only programs which have been approved by the White House. He pointed out that these programs are reviewed by the task force which includes the Attorney General, Secretary of State Rusk, McNamara of Defense, Bundy of the White House and McCone. \$

[Hecksher] (S) advised that pursuant to the directions from the White House, CIA still has the responsibility of running intelligence operations inside Cuba, the purpose of which is to collect intelligence information regarding Cuban and Soviet forces, intentions, and capabilities. These responsibilities continue to include the necessity of maintaining contact with Cuban exiles who possibly might be useful. In addition, CIA is making a point of maintaining Liaison with Cuban exile leaders and organizations who are in a position to assist in obtaining intelligence information inside Cuba and who have the potential to organize forces for the penetration or possible invasion of the country. \$

He advised that CIA has a very significant interest in the potential of Manuel Artime, a Cuban exile leader who has been spending considerable time in Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan Government has permitted Artime to use certain land in Nicaragua. Such land at some date in the future might be utilized for the training of an \$ (u)

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invasion force. So far there has been no military training activity in Nicaragua. Artime is spending most of his time conferring with Cuban exiles who might collaborate with him. As it stands, he does not have a military force under his supervision. CIA has been furnishing him some financial assistance and does confer with him on a regular basis. [Hecksher] confessed that Artime so far is just "scratch-[S] ing the surface" and there was much work to be done. In the meantime, it is anticipated that Artime will encounter numerous problems such as conflicts and differences with other exile leaders. X

According to [Hecksher], CIA does not have any invading forces [S] in Nicaragua and has not deposited any arms or ammunition in the country. He further emphasized that CIA has not been acquiring any planes for the use of any invasion of Cuba. [Hecksher] stated that [S] eventually, if Artime is successful in obtaining adequate support from exiles, CIA might assist him by furnishing arms and equipment. This will be a White House decision. He further commented that if arms are furnished to Artime very likely the material will pass through Nicaraguan Government channels in order to remove any connection with the U. S. Government. X

With regard to the "Somoza Plan" mentioned above, [Hecksher] [S] stated that Somoza has been in regular contact with Carlos Prío Socorras, former Cuban President and with William Pauley, former U. S. Ambassador. [Hecksher] stated that CIA definitely is not [S] utilizing Prío or Pauley in any capacity. The agency is most interested in any information the Bureau receives concerning the activities of these men. X

ACTION:

For information.

mcg *V* *3rd* *2/2/66*

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